United Nations A/66/132

General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 July 2011
English
Original: Arabic/English/Russian/
Spanish

Sixty-sixth session
Items 99 (o), (r) and (x) of the preliminary list*
General and complete disarmament

Nuclear disarmament

Reducing nuclear danger

Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*

Report of the Secretary-General

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11-41349 (E) 290711 010811

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to requests contained in General Assembly resolutions 65/56, 65/60 and 65/76.

2. In paragraph 22 of resolution 65/56, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the resolution.

3. In paragraph 5 of resolution 65/60, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to intensify efforts and support initiatives that would contribute towards the full implementation of the seven recommendations identified in the report of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters that would significantly reduce the risk of nuclear war (see A/56/400, para. 3), and also to continue to encourage Member States to consider the convening of an international conference, as proposed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration (General Assembly resolution 55/2), to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session.

4. In paragraph 3 of resolution 65/76, the General Assembly requested all States to inform the Secretary-General of the efforts and measures they have taken on the implementation of the resolution and nuclear disarmament, and requested the Secretary-General to apprise the General Assembly of that information at its sixty-sixth session.

II. Observations

5. Some progress was achieved in the first half of 2010 towards the objective of a world free of nuclear weapons. Yet, consensus agreements have continued to elude the forums for the development of new international law relating to the elimination of nuclear weapons, including in the Conference on Disarmament and the United Nations Disarmament Commission. At the same time, some Governments and civil society organizations have initiated new efforts aimed at elaborating innovative solutions:

(a) On 22 September 2010, Australia and Japan co-hosted a ministerial meeting on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in New York on the sidelines of the General Assembly. Ten countries, including Australia, Canada, Chile, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland, Turkey and United Arab Emirates, participated in the meeting, the purpose of which was, inter alia, to follow up on the recommendations of the International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament. On 30 April 2011, Germany convened a second ministerial meeting of the group in Berlin, at which they agreed, inter alia, on steps for action on key elements of the Action Plan adopted at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT);

(b) Following from its efforts to promote 29 August as the International Day against Nuclear Tests, in February 2011 Kazakhstan, in partnership with the EastWest Institute launched the "Nuclear Discussion Forum", which included six meetings between February and July 2011 aimed at facilitating in-depth discussions on current events in the discourse on nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament, and security;

(c) Members of the informal core group of friends that promoted the Secretary-General's five-point proposal for nuclear disarmament, most recently led by Uruguay in partnership with Mayors for Peace, have continued their efforts to pursue new and innovative means for building international consensus on a road map for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, including by means of a universal, legal instrument.

6. Civil society and other international actors worked to build significant international political momentum for nuclear disarmament, including the non-exhaustive list of notable examples as follows:

(a) On 20 June 2011, the United States Conference of Mayors adopted a resolution, inter alia, calling on all world leaders to implement the Secretary-General's five-point proposal for nuclear disarmament, so that a nuclear weapons convention or a separate framework of mutually reinforcing legal instruments can be agreed upon by 2020;

(b) On 25 June 2011, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons spearheaded international events in 25 countries to commemorate nuclear abolition day;

(c) The Global Zero campaign held meetings in 2011 in Washington, D.C. and London, bringing together high-level Government officials with prominent political, military and civil society leaders to discuss the elimination of nuclear weapons;

(d) Following from the 2007 article published in *The Wall Street Journal* by former statesmen from the United States of America, an editorial in support of a world free of nuclear weapons was published by former statesmen from the Russian Federation.

7. Nuclear-weapon States continued to take steps related to reducing their overall stockpiles of deployed nuclear warheads, increase transparency and accountability, and advance the implementation of their nuclear disarmament commitments:

(a) From 30 June to 1 July 2011, the nuclear-weapon States met in Paris for the second Conference on confidence-building measures towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, to follow up on their commitments made at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the London Conference on Confidence-Building Measures towards Nuclear Disarmament in September 2009. The nuclear-weapon States issued a joint statement, in which they, inter alia, reported that they had met with determination to work together in pursuit of nuclear disarmament under article VI of the Treaty, including engagement on the steps outlined in Action 5, as well as reporting and other efforts called for in the 2010 NPT Review Conference Action Plan; described progress made towards the elaboration of an agreed glossary of definitions for key nuclear terms and reported that they had established a dedicated working group to continue this work; discussed particular political and technical challenges associated with verification in achieving further progress towards disarmament and ensuring non-proliferation, and pledged to continue this discussion later this year at an expert-level meeting in London; and indicated that they will follow on their discussions and hold a third Conference in the context of the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference;

(b) On 5 February 2011, the Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States of America on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms entered into force with the exchange of instruments of ratification between Russia and the United States. The Bilateral Consultative Commission established pursuant to the Treaty began work in March 2011, and the parties also initiated the regular release of public information pertaining to their aggregate holdings of nuclear warheads accountable under the Treaty;

(c) On 19 November 2010, at the Lisbon Summit, the Heads of State and Government of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) adopted a new strategic concept that placed less emphasis on the political and military significance of nuclear weapons, endorsed further nuclear arms reductions and arms control negotiations with the Russian Federation, and for the first time addressed the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world;

(d) On 19 October 2010, the United Kingdom released its Strategic Defence and Security Review, in which it, inter alia, provided assurances that it will not use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and announced reductions in its stockpile of nuclear warheads.

8. Despite these steps, the number of nuclear weapons in national arsenals remains in the many thousands, including thousands of warheads maintained on high-alert status and capable of launch within minutes of a decision to do so. Several nuclear-weapon States remain committed to the doctrine of nuclear deterrence based on the contemplated first use of nuclear weapons. Nuclear-weapon States have continued to plan and implement major new programmes aimed at modernizing their nuclear arsenals, their delivery systems and their related research and development infrastructure and have continued to research, develop and deploy new nuclear weapons with new military capabilities.

9. While the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty continues to lack the necessary ratifications for its entry into force, the recent ratification by one Member State is a welcome development. The fifth ministerial meeting for promoting the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty convened on 23 September 2010 and issued a Ministerial Declaration, in which it called upon all States that have not yet done so to ratify the Treaty.

10. The Conference on Disarmament, at its 2011 session, has continued to be unable to start substantive work on the basis of an agreed programme of work. This situation has given rise to increasing concern regarding the current status of the multilateral disarmament machinery and the relevance of the Conference on Disarmament, prompting some States to begin the consideration of alternative options. Towards breaking the impasse in the Conference on Disarmament, on 24 September 2010, the Secretary-General convened a high-level meeting on the theme, "Revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral negotiations". Following from the discussion, the Secretary-General, inter alia, asked his Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters to carry out a thorough review of the issues raised in the high-level meeting, and proposed that the General Assembly follow up on the matter, both in the plenary and in the First Committee. The First Committee discussed the matter at its sixty-fifth session, leading to the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 65/93. The General Assembly discussed the matter at a plenary session convened on 27 July 2011.

11. The United Nations Disarmament Commission, convening in April 2011 for the third part of its three-year cycle, was unable to reach consensus on substantive matters pertaining to its three agenda items: recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons; elements of a draft declaration of the 2010s as the fourth disarmament decade; and practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons. The persistent inability of the Commission to reach consensus on its substantive work has given rise to new concerns regarding its working methods and questions regarding its broader role within the context of the United Nations disarmament machinery.

12. The Secretary-General and the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs have continued their efforts to promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation globally through direct interaction with Governments, civil society, civic leaders and parliamentarians, advocacy and other outreach activities. In particular, in August 2010, the Secretary-General visited Japan to participate in commemorations marking the sixty-fifth anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In addition, messages by the Secretary-General were delivered to, inter alia, the fifty-ninth Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs; meetings in Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Tokyo organized by the Japan Council against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs to launch a signature campaign for the start of negotiations for a convention banning nuclear weapons; and the second Conference of the Nuclear-Weapon States on confidence-building measures towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In May 2011, the Secretary-General published an op-ed, in which he urged the Members of the Conference on Disarmament to seize the moment and advance disarmament goals. The Secretary-General also attended and delivered statements at, inter alia, the opening meeting of the 2011 session of the Conference on Disarmament; the conference held on the theme "Promoting the Global Instruments of Non-proliferation and Disarmament: The United Nations and the Nuclear Challenge", organized by the Permanent Missions of Japan, Poland and Turkey to the United Nations; and the plenary session of the General Assembly on the follow-up to the high-level meeting on revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral negotiations.

III. Information received from Governments

13. By a note verbale dated 9 March 2011, all Member States were invited to inform the Secretary-General by 31 May 2011 of the efforts and measures they had taken with regard to the implementation of resolution 65/76, concerning the follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*. To date, Cuba, Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Mexico, Turkmenistan and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) have sent replies, the texts of which are reproduced below. Additional replies received from Member States will be issued as addenda to the present report.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[7 June 2011]

The advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 8 July 1996 on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons is unquestionably a historic document in the field of nuclear disarmament and constitutes a legal precedent which requires appropriate follow-up.

Under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the nuclear-weapon States, along with the other States parties to the Treaty, are obliged to pursue negotiations with a view to nuclear disarmament.

At present there are some 22,600 nuclear weapons, 12,000 of which are ready for immediate use. These weapons and the so-called doctrines of nuclear deterrence create a global climate of instability and insecurity. The only way to prevent further nuclear catastrophes is to completely eliminate and permanently ban nuclear weapons.

Cuba sees the commitments regarding the reduction of strategic nuclear weapons under START III, which entered into force on 5 February 2011 between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the United States of America, as a positive sign. It considers that those commitments should not give rise to a generalized sense of complacency or divert attention away from our ultimate goal of eliminating and banning nuclear weapons within a specific time frame through a legally binding international agreement providing for irreversible and internationally verifiable measures.

Cuba also welcomes the modest steps taken at the eighth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty. The agreements reached nonetheless remain far from what is required at this point in time, since the final outcome made it very plain that there is still a wide gap between the rhetoric and good intentions repeated time and again by some nuclear-weapon States and the commitments and practical measures they are actually willing to undertake.

Cuba recalls that the non-aligned countries that are parties to the Treaty have proposed the adoption of a phased programme leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons by 2025, which would include the adoption of a nuclear weapons convention.

Paragraph E of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons states that "the threat or use of nuclear weapons would generally be contrary to the rules of international law applicable in armed conflict, and in particular the principles and rules of humanitarian law".

Thus, pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, a legally binding international instrument must be concluded, as a matter of priority, whereby nuclear-weapon States would undertake not to use or threaten to use such weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States. The Conference on Disarmament is the appropriate forum for the negotiation and adoption of such an instrument.

Likewise, Cuba is in favour of beginning negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a non-discriminatory, multilateral and effectively verifiable treaty

banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. This treaty should represent a new step towards achieving the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons and, accordingly, should contain both non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament measures.

Iraq

[Original: Arabic]
[31 March 2011]

1. The Government of Iraq is firmly committed to its responsibility to respect and implement disarmament and non-proliferation instruments. The Government is committed not only to those instruments but also to international arrangements relating to disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation. In that connection, article 9 (e) of the Iraqi Constitution provides that the Iraqi Government shall respect and implement Iraq's international obligations regarding the non-proliferation, non-development, non-production and non-use of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, and shall prohibit associated equipment, materiel, technologies, and delivery systems for use in the development, manufacture, production and use of such weapons.

2. The National Monitoring Directorate established by the Iraqi Government has drafted a law that would lead to the creation of a permanent, unified national system that will enable Iraq to fulfil its commitments under instruments concerning the non-proliferation of chemical and biological weapons and their delivery systems. That law would apply to all peaceful activities, including those related to material, equipment and technology, and related production, possession, use, storage, import, export, transport, disposal and other activities, in order to ensure that they are not diverted to prohibited activities, and would prescribe penalties. It would also put in place mechanisms for submitting declarations, issuing permits and tracing dual-use substances, in accordance with the Safeguards Agreement pursuant to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the chemical weapons verification regime and the Biological Weapons Convention.

3. Iraq acceded to the Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1969 and signed the Protocol Additional to the Safeguards Agreement on 9 October 2008. The Additional Protocol is currently before the Council of Representatives for ratification. Iraq formally notified the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that, on 17 February 2010, it had begun to apply voluntarily the Additional Protocol, in accordance with its article 17. In that connection, Iraq submitted its initial declaration on 16 July 2010. Iraq also ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention in February 2009, signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty on 19 August 2008 and became a party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction in 1991.

4. The Government of Iraq stresses the importance of implementing the decisions that were adopted at the 1995 Review Conference upon the indefinite extension of the Treaty and the 13 practical steps that were adopted by the 2000 Review Conference, which constitute a programme of action to enhance the credibility of the Treaty and the review process itself.

5. Iraq lent its full support to the programme of work adopted by the Conference on Disarmament at its 2009 session. That programme is the best basis for making progress towards negotiations on a treaty prohibiting the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, as well as for taking practical measures towards nuclear disarmament, obtaining negative security assurances and preventing an arms race in outer space.

6. On 11 August 2010, Iraq signed the Hague Code of Conduct, thereby becoming the 131st subscribing State, and will submit its initial declaration in 2011.

7. Despite recent positive developments at the international level, nuclear-weapon States continue to maintain most of their nuclear arsenals and to develop new types of nuclear weapons and related delivery systems, and the situation continues to be a cause of concern. Agreement must be reached on the need to conclude a binding international legal instrument that would provide non-nuclear-weapon States with assurances that nuclear-weapon States will not use or threaten to use such weapons against them, as well as the means by which progress can be made towards that aim. Negative security assurances are a major step along that road, quite apart from being a legitimate and just demand on the part of non-nuclear-weapon States, which have voluntarily renounced any military nuclear options by becoming parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. While effective measures and arrangements to provide non-nuclear-weapon States with such assurances can make a positive contribution to nuclear non-proliferation, they are no substitute for complete nuclear disarmament.

8. The gradual elimination of nuclear weapons will build trust between States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and will provide States non-parties with an incentive to become parties thereto. It will also allay apprehensions arising from the capabilities and security doctrines of certain nuclear-weapon States. In that connection, we stress our commitment to the 8 July 1996 International Court of Justice advisory opinion on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons, which affirmed that the threat or use of nuclear weapons would generally be contrary to the rules of international law applicable in armed conflict, and that States have an obligation to bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.

9. Iraq appreciates that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones would give impetus to nuclear disarmament efforts, enhance the security of the States involved and bring us closer to the ultimate goal of achieving and maintaining international peace and security. It has therefore supported and participated in efforts to establish nuclear-weapon-free zones in every region of the world, including, in particular, in the Middle East. In that connection, Iraq would like to emphasize the relevance of Security Council resolutions 487 (1981) and 687 (1991). Any effort to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East must begin with basic steps that include the nuclear disarmament of Israel, its accession to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and placement of its nuclear installations under IAEA comprehensive safeguards. Iraq supports the convening in 2012 of an international conference on the establishment of zone free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. All States in the region should participate in such a conference, which should take the 1995 resolution as its terms of reference.

Jamaica

[Original: English]
[31 May 2011]

The Government of Jamaica does not manufacture nor possess nuclear weapons.

Jamaica remains supportive of international efforts to achieve nuclear disarmament and promote international cooperation on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology as outlined in article IV of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Jamaica's contribution to the disarmament and non-proliferation process is reflected in its support of efforts to attain universal adherence to multilateral disarmament treaties. It is for this reason Jamaica supports the tenets of and has ratified the major nuclear weapons treaties; and is a long-standing party to the first nuclear-weapon-free zone — the Treaty of Tlatelolco (OPANAL).

Japan

[Original: English]
[27 May 2011]

Being the only country to have suffered the horrific effects of atomic bombings, Japan firmly believes that it is essential to intensify efforts to maintain and enhance current momentum towards the realization of a world without nuclear weapons, and continues to exercise its leadership by proposing and taking practical and incremental measures and ensuring their steady implementation.

The following are some of the recent efforts and measures that Japan has taken in order to take forward nuclear disarmament.

1. Submission of resolutions on nuclear disarmament to the United Nations General Assembly

Every year since 1994, the Government of Japan has submitted its resolutions on nuclear disarmament to the United Nations General Assembly.

In 2010, taking into consideration the recent international situation surrounding nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, Japan once again submitted its draft resolution on nuclear disarmament to the United Nations General Assembly. On 8 December 2010, the draft resolution was adopted at the plenary session of the United Nations General Assembly by an overwhelming majority of 173 votes in favour.

Although the situation surrounding nuclear disarmament remains challenging, in response to the political will of a large majority of the international community, which was expressed through the adoption of this resolution, Japan intends to pursue its various diplomatic efforts to maintain and reinforce the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime based on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

2. Efforts for the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)

Japan attaches great importance to the early entry into force of the CTBT, which constitutes one of the major pillars of the NPT regime. At bilateral meetings and international forums Japan has been calling for States that have not yet signed or ratified the Treaty to do so at an early stage. On 23 September 2010, the Friends of the CTBT (Australia, Canada, Finland, Japan and the Netherlands) and the Article XIV Coordinators (France and Morocco), co-hosted the fifth ministerial meeting on the CTBT in New York. At the meeting the then Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Mr. Seiji Maehara, appealed to the political leaders of those remaining Annex 2 States for their leadership to act decisively for early signature and ratification of the Treaty.

Through its advanced seismological observation technology, Japan has provided technical assistance to developing countries in order to support the development of the International Monitoring System, and at the same time, to facilitate broader adherence to the CTBT by making it easier for these countries to implement necessary measures required under the Treaty. Specifically, from January to March 2011, Japan invited 10 administrative officers from various countries, who are expected to play a role in a global seismological network for nuclear tests, to attend its global seismological observation training course in order to have opportunities to acquire knowledge and advanced techniques of global seismological observation.

3. Efforts for revitalization of the Conference on Disarmament and for the commencement of fissile material cut-off treaty negotiations

The Conference on Disarmament has been paralysed over the recent years. Despite the agreement reached on a programme of work in 2009, the Conference on Disarmament could not reach an agreement on implementing the programme of work and remains in stagnation. In order to break the paralysis, the Government of Japan supported and actively participated in the high-level meeting on revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament in September 2010, convened by the Secretary-General. At the meeting the then Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Maehara, expressed regret for the paralysis of function of the Conference on Disarmament and appealed for immediate commencement of its work and advancement of its core agenda items. Furthermore, Mr. Maehara called for placing a deadline on the discussions in the Conference on Disarmament and proposed to explore alternative paths in case of failure in making progress. Japan has also actively taken part in the follow-up discussions with like-minded countries in Geneva and New York after the high-level meeting.

Japan regards a fissile material cut-off treaty as a concrete and immediate step to be undertaken to achieve "a world without nuclear weapons", and has been leading, with other like-minded countries, the international efforts for early commitment of its negotiations as a matter of highest priority within the Conference on Disarmament. For example, the Governments of Japan and Australia have recently co-hosted a series of expert side events on a fissile material cut-off treaty in Geneva, which is open to all Conference on Disarmament members and observer States, for the purpose of advancing substantive discussions on the treaty. Japan and Australia intend to report the outcome of the discussions at the event to the

Conference on Disarmament in the capacity of the Chair, hoping that it would contribute to the future negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament by further deepening technical discussions. Japan also makes efforts for fissile material cut-off treaty negotiations in the framework of the foreign ministers' meeting on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, which Japan launched together with Australia and other countries last September (see sect. 5).

4. Implementation of the Action Plan in the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference

The 2010 NPT Review Conference adopted a comprehensive and forward-looking Final Document that included an Action Plan for all the three pillars of the Treaty.

The Government of Japan and the Government of Australia hosted a ministerial meeting on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation together with eight other like-minded countries (Canada, Chile, Germany, Mexico, the Netherlands, Poland, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates) in September 2010. The objectives of the meeting were to take forward the consensus outcomes of the 2010 NPT Review Conference and to jointly advance the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation agendas as mutually reinforcing processes. From short and midterm perspectives, it focused on measures to reduce nuclear risks on the path towards "a world without nuclear weapons". The participants unanimously adopted the Joint Statement by Foreign Ministers. In this statement, the ministers committed to work together on practical measures for realizing these objectives.

On 30 April, the second foreign ministers' meeting on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation took place in Berlin. The participants unanimously adopted the Berlin Statement, which lists several priority items in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation fields such as an early commencement of fissile material cut-off treaty negotiations and increased transparency measures by nuclear-weapon States. The group of 10 States, now named the "Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative", decided to take concrete actions to reduce nuclear risks, especially focusing on priority items listed in the Berlin Statement.

5. Cooperation for denuclearization in Russia

At the Kananaskis Summit in June 2002, the Group of Eight (G-8) leaders announced the G-8 Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction to address non-proliferation, disarmament, counter-terrorism and nuclear safety issues. The Government of Japan committed itself, for the purpose of the Partnership, to make a contribution amounting to over US$ 200 million, out of which $100 million was to be allocated to the G-8 disposition programme of Russian surplus weapons-grade plutonium and the rest to projects for dismantling decommissioned Russian nuclear submarines. Since then Japan has extended cooperation to Russia and completed the dismantlement of six decommissioned nuclear submarines. Furthermore, based on the decision in 2006, Japan will provide three equipments for cooperation for the construction of the long-term storage facility for reactor compartment units at Razboynik Bay by the end of 2011.

6. Efforts to promote disarmament and non-proliferation education

Since 1983, Japan has invited more than 700 participants in the United Nations disarmament fellowship programme to Japan, including the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This has provided these young officials, who will be responsible for future disarmament diplomacy, with an opportunity to witness the horrendous and long-lasting consequences caused by atomic bombs. Japan will continue to contribute to this programme.

Japan believes that the international community should be well informed of the destructive effects of nuclear weapons. In accordance with the wish of the people of Japan that such weapons never be used again, the Government of Japan has supported, on a number of occasions, the efforts of local governments and NGOs in foreign countries to organize exhibitions relating to atomic bombs. Within the United Nations Conference on Disarmament in Saitama, the session on the theme "A Nuclear-Weapon-Free World" was held with prominent educators in August 2010.

Japan hosted a reception and concert together with the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations on 3 May 2010, the first day of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, in honour of the Hibakusha (people who survived the 1945 atomic bombings of Japan) and their work with young people to raise awareness of the dangers of nuclear weapons.

Japan submitted a joint working paper with the United Nations University, entitled "Disarmament and non-proliferation education: promoting cooperation with civil society towards a world without nuclear weapons" for the 2010 NPT Review Conference, which included proposals such as holding a global forum on disarmament and non-proliferation education that would bring together civil society and Governments and employing modern technologies to digitally record Hibakusha's testimonies and to disseminate them to future generations. In this context, Japan delivered a joint statement on disarmament and non-proliferation education on behalf of 42 countries at the 2010 NPT Review Conference Main Committee I.

Japan has started to appoint Hibakusha, atomic bombs survivors, as "Special Communicators for a World without Nuclear Weapons" to ask them to pass on their first-hand experience of the tragic consequences of the use of nuclear weapons to the world and to future generations.

Kazakhstan

[Original: Russian]
[7 June 2011]

The Republic of Kazakhstan, while supporting the speedy conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention, has also proposed the adoption of a universal declaration on a nuclear-free world. Such a declaration would help to advance the idea of a nuclear-free world and would represent a new step towards the adoption of a nuclear weapons convention and the implementation of the relevant General Assembly resolutions.

Lebanon

[Original: Arabic]
[2 May 2011]

Lebanon affirms the following:

- Lebanon does not possess or produce weapons of mass destruction; it complies with the United Nations resolutions in that regard and is opposed to the legality of the threat or use of such weapons;
- It welcomes and supports all initiatives aimed at bringing about general and complete disarmament, especially in the Middle East region, and emphasizes that the region should be free of weapons of mass destruction; it is apprehensive, however, about Israel's failure to adhere to international legitimacy, in view of its maintenance of a nuclear arsenal that constitutes a constant threat to all the countries of the region, and consequently to international peace and security;
- It is essential for the Arab States to continue to call for the establishment of a region free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East because that is the only available option for coping with the dangers which Israel's nuclear armament and other Israeli weapons of mass destruction represent for international peace and Arab national security;
- Attention continues to be called at the international level to the need for all the States of the region to sign the treaties on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and nuclear weapons (including Israel);
- It is essential to unify the Arab position, step up the role of the League of Arab States and take action to acquire scientific knowledge and secure the necessary equipment for protection against weapons of mass destruction; it is also vital to continue the efforts to highlight that Israel is a State which is not a party to the international conventions;
- Lebanon calls for the introduction and development of the use of peaceful nuclear technologies in all fields that serve sustainable development and the taking into account of the various needs of the different Arab countries.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[3 June 2011]

Mexico believes that the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons remains fully in force and calls attention to the grave danger that nuclear weapons represent, and reaffirms the existence of a legal obligation of States to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects.

In this connection, Mexico is strongly and steadfastly committed to international peace, disarmament and security. Accordingly, its domestic legal framework includes the following provisions:

• Political Constitution of the United Mexican States

Article 27

[...] Nuclear energy shall be used only for peaceful purposes.

Article 89

The President shall have the following powers and duties:

[...]

X. To direct foreign policy [...]. In directing foreign policy, the President shall be guided by the following normative principles: [...] the peaceful settlement of disputes; the prohibition of the threat or use of force in international relations; [...] and the effort to achieve international peace and security [...].

• Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)

Article 1

1. The Contracting Parties hereby undertake to use exclusively for peaceful purposes the nuclear material and facilities which are under their jurisdiction, and to prohibit and prevent in their respective territories:

(a) The testing, use, manufacture, production or acquisition by any means whatsoever of any nuclear weapons, by the Parties themselves, directly or indirectly, on behalf of anyone else or in any other way, and

(b) The receipt, storage, installation, deployment and any form of possession of any nuclear weapons, directly or indirectly, by the Parties themselves, by anyone on their behalf or in any other way.

2. The Contracting Parties also undertake to refrain from engaging in, encouraging or authorizing, directly or indirectly, or in any way participating in the testing, use, manufacture, production, possession or control of any nuclear weapon.

• Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Article II

Each non-nuclear-weapon State Party to the Treaty undertakes not to receive the transfer from any transferor whatsoever of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices or of control over such weapons or explosive devices directly, or indirectly; not to manufacture or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices; and not to seek or receive any assistance in the manufacture of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

In addition, Mexico has expressed, at the international level, its consent to be bound by the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, and hopes that the Treaty will soon enter into force (having ratified it in October 1999).

Article I. Basic obligations

1. Each State Party undertakes not to carry out any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion, and to prohibit and prevent any such nuclear explosion at any place under its jurisdiction or control.

2. Each State Party undertakes, furthermore, to refrain from causing, encouraging, or in any way participating in the carrying out of any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion.

In the framework of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, in June 2009 Mexico presented a proposed amendment to that instrument under which the use of nuclear weapons in an international armed conflict would be characterized as a war crime. This reflects Mexico's conviction that the use of such weapons constitutes, by any measure, a grave violation of international humanitarian law.

The proposal is based on a number of international treaties, General Assembly resolutions, the 8 July 1996 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons, and customary international law. The Mexican proposal is currently being considered by the Assembly of States Parties Working Group on Amendments to the Statute, established in November 2009.

In the multilateral sphere, Mexico continues to promote the commencement of substantive negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament, as well as with its New Agenda Coalition partners and in the context of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative.

Turkmenistan

[Original: Russian]
[27 April 2011]

Information provided pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/76 on follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*

Article 6 of the Constitution of Turkmenistan (26 September 2008)

Turkmenistan, as a fully fledged member of the international community, maintains a foreign policy based on the principles of permanent neutrality, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, renunciation of the use of force and of participation in military blocs and unions and promotion of the development of peaceful, friendly and mutually advantageous relations with the countries of the region and States throughout the world.

Turkmenistan recognizes the priority of the generally recognized rules of international law. If an international treaty to which Turkmenistan is a party stipulates rules different from those established in domestic legislation, those in the international treaty are applied.

Article 6 of the Constitutional Law of Turkmenistan on the permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan (27 December 1995)

Turkmenistan shall not possess, produce or distribute nuclear, chemical, bacteriological or other types of weapons of mass destruction, nor shall it allow the placement on its territory of military bases of foreign States.

Foreign policy doctrine of Turkmenistan as a neutral State (27 December 1995)

Turkmenistan shall not possess, produce or distribute nuclear, chemical, bacteriological or other types of weapons of mass destruction, or help to create new types of such weapons or technologies for their production. Turkmenistan is a party to all the main international legal instruments providing guarantees for the creation of a system of collective security.

In the context of the obligations governing the international behaviour of a neutral State, Turkmenistan refuses to take sides in a conflict or to allow the placement on its territory of military bases of foreign States.

The military doctrine of an independent and permanently neutral Turkmenistan (21 January 2009)

Turkmenistan undertakes not to possess, produce, distribute or transport through its territory nuclear, chemical, biological or other types of weapons of mass destruction.

Turkmenistan is a party to the following international legal instruments on counter-terrorism:

International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (New York, 15 December 1997);

Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft (Tokyo, 14 September 1963);

Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation (Montreal, 23 September 1971);

Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft (The Hague, 16 December 1970);

Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf (Rome, 10 March 1988);

Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (Rome, 10 March 1988);

Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents (New York, 14 December 1973);

International Convention against the Taking of Hostages (New York, 17 December 1979);

Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation, supplementary to the Convention for the

Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation (Montreal, 24 February 1988);

Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (Vienna, 3 March 1980);

Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection (Montreal, 1 March 1991);

International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (New York, 9 December 1999);

International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (New York, 13 April 2005);

On 20 September 2005 Turkmenistan became a party to the Amendment (Vienna, 8 July 2005) to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.

Venezuela

[Original: Spanish]
[18 April 2011]

In the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice issued on 8 July 1996 on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons, the Court recognizes that nuclear weapons have a destructive power that cannot be contained in either space or time and that they have the potential to destroy all civilization and the entire ecosystem of the planet. It is also stated that there exists an obligation to pursue negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.

Mindful of the above, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has always joined the efforts made in various multilateral forums to achieve a legally binding and verifiable instrument that prohibits the development, production, testing, deployment, stockpiling, transfer, threat or use of nuclear weapons and provides for the elimination of such weapons. Unfortunately, those efforts have been fruitless thus far. As long as certain States lack the political will to modify their national defence policies in favour of world peace and security, humanity will continue to wait for this important international treaty.